

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 06718 290455Z

17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2461

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 6718

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, KS

SUBJECT: TRIAL OF LAWYER HAN SUNG-HON

REF: SEOUL 6546 (DTG 250922Z AUG 75)

1. AT AUGUST 28 FINAL SESSION OF LAWYER HAN'S TRIAL PROSECUTOR DEMANDED THAT HE BE GIVEN THREE YEARS IN PRISON AND THREE YEARS DEPRIVATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS FOR VIOLATION OF THE ANTI-COMMUNIST LAW. PROSECUTOR ARGUED THAT HE HAD PROVEN THAN HAN'S ESSAY "A MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE" WAS DIRECT CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EXECUTION OF AN ESPIONAGE AGENT. HAN HAS CONTENDED THAT HIS ESSAY WAS PHILOSOPHICAL EXPLORATION OF ISSUE OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT AND NOT CRITICAL OF GOVERNMENT. DEFENSE LAWYERS CONTINUED TO BOYCOTT TRIAL AFTER WALKING OUT OF AUGUST 22 SESSION TO PROTEST JUDGE'S REFUSAL TO GRANT DELAY TO PERMIT HAN, WHO HAS TB, TO GET MEDICAL TREATMENT.

2. COMMENT: THREE AND THREE SENTENCE IS GENRALLY MODERATE. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAN HAN WILL BE FOUND GUILTY AND HIS SENTENCE WILL BE SUSPENDED WHEN THE JUDGE HANDS DOWN HIS DECISION ON SEPTEMBER 11.
SNEIDER

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